

CHEERFUL CHERUB

Rebecca McCann







Thelma Gramblere from Waldy Scambler (x-mos 1943) Tina from Granpa Jeb 8/92





Cheerful Cherub

Rebecca Mc Cann

· 13 ·

Pascal Covici — Publisher
1927

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REBECCA McCANN
Chicago

A. Jan

To EVERYBODY
who reads the
Cheerful Cherub
especially
my MOTHER



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By Way of Preface

9

Author to Publisher: Your letter asking me how I happened to create the Cheerful Cherub sort of paralyzes my mind because everyone I have ever met has asked me that and I never know what to say. I'll just tell you everything I can think of about him and maybe you will find something you can use for the book.

As a matter of fact I didn't really create him at all. He just came into my mind and there he stayed. I used to draw him in the margins of my school books, and I still have a bad habit of drawing him all over everything. I also used to write verses all over my school books. The way I first connected the Cherub with the verses was this:

One summer I was out in the country resting from a strenuous first year at the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago. I used to lie out on the ground for hours, soaking up happiness from the sun and the earth, and since I was happy I wrote cheerful verses. The little Cherub smiling on the page seemed to go with the smiling verses so I used him to illustrate them. The next September (it was in 1914 so the Cherub began with the war, a nice time for me to begin my career of professional rejoicing) I went to The Chicago Evening Post carrying a huge portfolio of all my school work, and bearding an editor in his den I asked for a job.

The editor was Mr. Mason. He noticed the Cheerful Cherub verses and drawings much more than the school drawings with which I expected to demonstrate my genius. In fact he hired me with the understanding that I was to furnish a Cherub a day. So you see the Cherub got me my first job. And although I had always expected to be an artist I began work as a sort of versifier and have been one ever since. A few months after the Cherub began on the Post I had a chance to syndicate him and then the Post kept on using him from the syndicate.

The way I write the Cherub is to carry a notebook around with me and catch a verse here and there on the wing. Friends of mine who don't see me very often say they can tell what I am doing by reading the Cherub. It is a much more painless way of working, I think, to mix work with living like that instead of having regular hours for it. The only trouble is that I keep losing books of verses, leaving them on trains and mountains and places. If anyone has found one please return and get a large reward (adv.).

I can't seem to think of any Cherub anecdotes. He gets letters from readers, and every Christmas some readers send him presents. A few years ago at a studio tea in New York a very serious woman rushed up to me and said, "Are you the author of Cheerful Cherub? Well, last spring you saved me from committing suicide!" I was appalled because I never thought anyone took him really seriously.

The Cherub is also used in a school book, Robbins' and Row's Studies in English, Book One. He is right across the page from Whittier!

Of course in one way it has been a terrible thing to have had to bear the stigma of being cheerful all these years. There is an exasperating, blind and feelingless

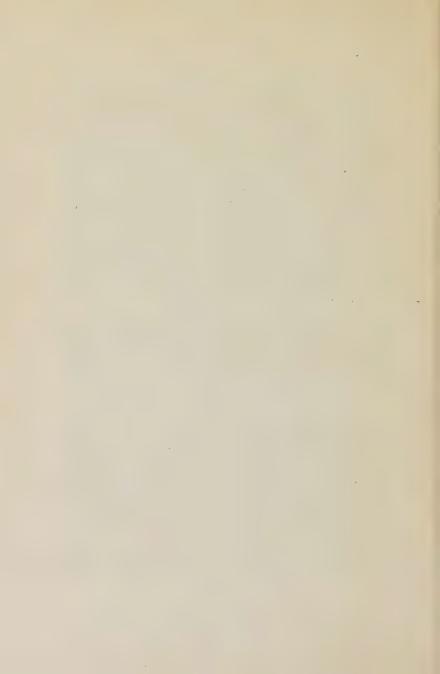
kind of cheerfulness which has been commercialized to such an extent that all cheerfulness is more or less in disrepute. I don't want the Cherub to be that way. I am certainly not that way in my private life. I am often quite gloomy, I am happy to say. The kind of cheerfulness the Cherub is supposed to believe in is really nothing but being interested in living. And interested in the little daily things, the pretty little surfaces and colors and sounds which we clump past so unseeingly because there are so many of them. I don't want him to burble life is all good regardless of other people's troubles. Because as a matter of fact I think that life is often pretty awful, and so does he. But I do want him to be a good sport and not to take himself too seriously, to keep a proper perspective on his own troubles by always being an audience of life as a whole as well as an actor in it.

This is beginning to sound pretty pompous for anything as small as the Cherub. He really hasn't any hidebound philosophy. He just goes along making little notes of the funny and happy and human and exasperating things that happen every day, and always feeling secretly surprised that he is printed.

And speaking of printing . . . some place in the book I want to acknowledge my indebtedness to George Matthew Adams, who is largely responsible for the Cherub's being printed so much. Mr. Adams has syndicated him for years, and both the Cherub and I have had so many reasons to be grateful for his friendship and encouragement, ever since the first day we appeared in his office, that we are glad to have a chance to say an enthusiastic "thank you" to him now.

Yours truly,

REBECCA McCANN



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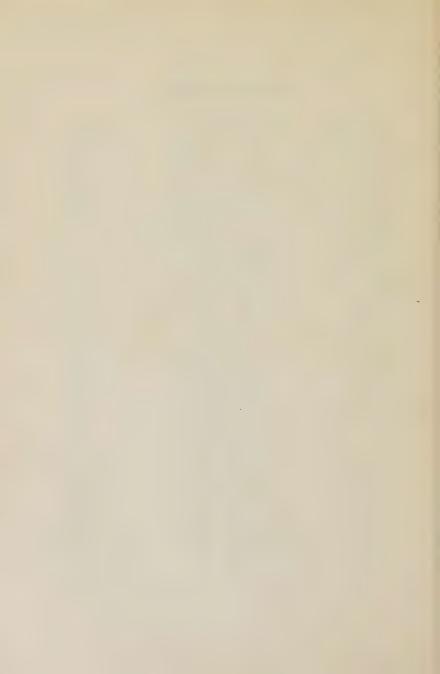
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Cheerful Cherub





A HURDY-GURDY P

I have a hurdy-gurdy mind That grinds out verse on this and that. Come rain or shine I never stop-I'd like a penny in my hat.



CRIMES



Of all the many crimes My wicked past bestrewing I most regret the ones That some one caught me doing .

HUMANE THOUGHT

Be kind to all dumb animals
And give small birds

a crumb.

Be kind to human beings too—
They're sometimes

pretty dumb.

© NEW LOVE 50%

Some new love should take the place
Of every love departed—
For sorrow cannot fill your heart
Unless you're hollow-hearted.



DUTY D

Now duty is a horrid word. Right-doing should be glad-If you do good because you should You might as well be bad.

FRIENDS FED

We're here so short a time before We go to unknown ends.

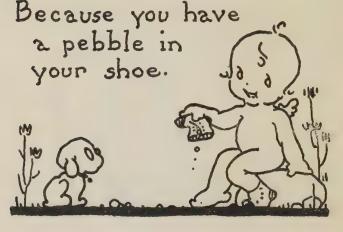
We may not meet in other worlds,—
Let's hurry and be friends.

X NERVES X

I swear that I'll
relax today.
My nerves are
simply overtaxed—
Right now I'm all
worked up and tense
I'm trying so to be
relaxed.

P. PEBBLES S. ...?

Some people say the whole wide world is sad Because their own small thoughts are cross or blue And yet you cannot say the road is bad

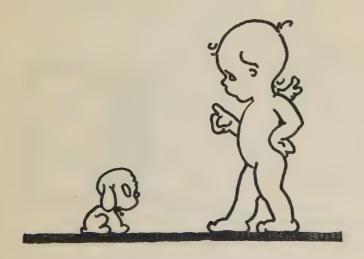




QUARREL 岩



To keep up a quarrel Is simply absurd For nobody ever Has said the last word.



* @ · KISS -) ·

I made the nicest kiss I could And blew it to the moon so far, And then I watched the empty sky

And pop — out came a little star!



MOSQUITOES

God made the starhung skies for us, And singing trees and hills and lakes. Of course He made mosquitoes too But everybody makes mistakes.

DISCONTENT

Contentment is a priceless gift, But discontent is helpful too -I want the first for what I have, The second, though, for what I do.

RECIPROCATION

Look on things with friendly eyes,
Cast out little hates.
Just love life with all your heart—
Life reciprocates.



🗓 IDEAL 🕥

I fall so short of my ideal
At times I'm almost moved to cry:
"Don't judge me, please, by what I do—
This small cross person isn't I!"

Each year I swear I'll keep a diary.

It's sad my resolutions never last —

To read them you might think I'd only had

A bunch of Januaries



STRUE LOVE S

I don't pretend that life's all good,
That Nature's always sweet and kind.
I love the world the way it is—
The truest love is never blind.



* DISGRACE *

Id rather be the lowly soul Who suffers every deep disgrace Than wear that sly rejoicing look That sometimes lights a righteous face.

BOREDOM B

I wish I had a ticket for Siam.

I'm getting pretty bored with where I am—
But when I'm in Siam why all I'll do
Is wish I had a ticket
for Peru.





BETRAYAL &



I'm always caught in telling fibs.
I have an honest

face, for sooth -The while my heart is

black with lies

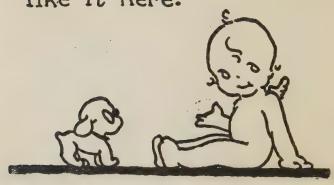
My simple features tell the truth!





OPTION & Bis

Though the world is at times a troublous place. And often my life seems dull and drear. When I think I could leave if I wanted to I always begin to like it here.



REFLECTION

Sometimes I see my life with such calm eyes, Withdrawn and far beyond, The way the moon looks down and sees a moon Wave-broken on a pond.

EMPTINESS ©

The ones who seek their happiness By buying cars and clothes and rings Don't seem to know that empty lives Are just as empty filled with things.

FISH W

A fish seems very sad to me -No matter what its trouble It opens up its mouth to moan And just emits a bubble.

GUEST 4

Speak gently to the dinner guest, Nor chide him when he's late, For some time you yourself may be In his unhappy state.



RABBIT



Across the moonlight on the snow I saw a young, wild rabbit go How lightly! - making no more sound Than his long shadow on the ground.

1 CERTAINTY

Though life is most uncertain I'm sure of this one thing -That when I'm in the bath tub The telephone will ring.

JOYS &

I love the little joys of life -The smell of rain, the sound of brooks, The taste of crispy toast and jam, The sight of rows and rows of books.

A star was shining in a well.

I let the pail down slow and far.

It broke the light to little bits —

But once I almost had (



HIDDEN LIFE &



I love to tell my secrets. I do it all unbidden. My hidden life's so thrilling I cannot keep it

hidden.

PIRATES @

Conversational pirates
Have caused me many
a groan—
They hear a
witticism
And use it as their
own.



WE WAY WE

One way I have to baffle woe
When failure follows all I've tried—
I suddenly detach myself
And just sit still and let things slide.

W DETACHMENT W

A detached point of view is a wonderful thing For it doesn't detach one from others.

The less I'm wrapped up in my personal life. The closer I get to my brother's.



& COMMON SENSE

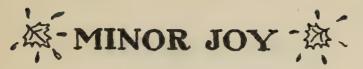
Common sense is good to have But never let it master you For then it might deprive you of The foolish things it's fun to do.



GLOOM



How strange a place and remote from life Is the dentist's reception room, With its magazines that are ages old And its feeling of c timeless gloom!



One minor joy I have in fall
Almost too small to

speak about—
It's after rain to
step on leaves,

And see the water spurting out.

UP & DOWN

The water flows now high, now low, While forging onward with a will. Thus life should have now joy, now woe For only stagnant pools are still.

WASTE -

I've wasted many precious days, A thought that fills me with distress -Stretched end to end they'd make a line To reach from here to bright SUCCESS.

商★ DESKS 場高

I wish I had a row of desks
Extending endlessly away,
For then I'd never clean them up—
I'd use a new one every day.

OPEN BOOK @

I can't conceal my
crimes.

I'm really quite
distressed—

My life's an open
book

That ought
to be
suppressed!





PICKLES



Though life has bitter little times
They're not a total loss I feel
For mixed with joys they play the part
Of sour pickles at a meal.

SCENERY AND

I love our mountains in the west, So still and strange and tall. I brag about our scenery You'd think it all.

DIARIES D

The humble part I play in life Does not much help my self-esteem-But in the diary I heep You'd be surprised how grand I seem.

DISCOVERY S

I found a way to cure today That foolish mood of hurry -I simply stopped the clock and then I didn't have to worry.__

⑤ FACES **⑥**

We'd find each face
was beautiful,
However plain it seems,
If, looking past the
dull outside,
We saw the wistful
dreams.



E CAKE

You cannot eat your cake and have it. So the cautious wise ones wail.

But I shall eat mine willy-nilly -3

willy-nilly-Otherwise it might get stale. . d & AIR . 0 . 4

In gloomy moods it's never wise
To sit at home and mope.

Go out and take a long brisk walk-

Fresh air creates fresh hope.



O DUST OF

I love the world when die I must Beside a road I want to lie And feel upon my grave the dust Of life forever passing by.

& BLESSINGS DA

They say our hardships help us grow And make us strong and wise, But if there's one thing I dislike It's blessings in disquise.



READING

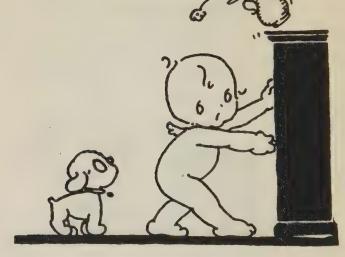


Reading is my greatest joy. Its pleasures never pale — My favorite form of literature Is ads of farms for sale.



M ABHORRENCE M

Among the contraptions
My nature abhors
Are bookcases shaky,
With sticky glass
doors.



LIGHT WORDS 4

Words fall as lightly as snow.

They're easily,
thoughtlessly said—
Yet hard words can
enter the heart

And lie there as heavy as lead.



MOON

The moon who used to thrill me so
Has lost her youthful spell—
I never thought when

I never thought when I grew old

That she'd grow old as well.



MEALS SA

The meals that stretch all down my life
Appall me when I look ahead—
The lakes of soup and hills of meat
I'll have to eat before I'm dead!

RADICAL VIEWS

I really hold radical views about life. Convention bars progress I very well know. I always decide things with untrammeled mind I'm too nice to live up to my principles though.

A LOCUSTS &

The locusts have a rasping call.
They saw the air with sound—
The drowsy summer minutes fall
In tatters to the ground.





COWARDICE



Although I'm brave enough, I'm sure,
To meet life's gravest situations

I lack the courage to refuse



VIEWS

Other people's lives look strange to me. I often wonder what they're all about. The only view of any life that's clear, I think, is from the inside looking out.

& MODERATION &

I mustn't live too
greedily—
I'll make each
small joy last,
And not weigh down
my future with
An undigested
past.

COURT JAM WITH

When your day gets in a jam With twice the work for which you've time Desert it for a matinee. It's on the way to one that I'm!

REGRET !

Through fear of taking risks in life

I've missed a lot of fun—

The only things that I regret

Are those I haven't done.

FOAM, O. O. O.

The tide of summer

A green wave strong and dark,

Breaks in a foam of blossoms

And children in the park.

What

* CONTENTMENT *

Well, here I sit, a
little thing,
Contented in the sun,
And think how warm
and gay life is,
What though it soon
is done.

& GENERATIONS &

Oh, do you remember, a
few years ago
That young generation
that worried us so?
Well, now they are aging
and settled, poor thingsBe calm, worried critics,
for Time clips
all wings.

D ALAS!

I'd like to be most tolerant Of all that others do and say, The while I sternly judge myself—Alas, I'm just the other way!



If you feel you need a change I know a simple thing to do -Shut your eyes, then open them. And take a different point of view.

SCONSCIENCE

Sometimes at night my conscience wakes With pangs it seems that naught can lull. If I could always feel like this How good I'd be, and oh, how dull!

DISTANCE T

Although there's beauty near at hand To distant lands my dreams all stray. I see the loveliness of home Most clearly when I'm far away.

a to TALKERS to a

The past is like a fading cloud—
We huddle on the future's brink,
Surrounded by eternity,
And tell each other

O ME O

I feel so thrillingly alive And filled with vim and glee
It's strange to think that years ago There wasn't any me!

HOUSE CLEANING

We clean our houses every day And throw the useless things away, But often let our minds for years Get filled with foolish thoughts and fears.

S FAULTS S

The faults of my friends Which I freely condone Are always the ones Which resemble my own.

BREEZE 'CODO

How sweet and brief the summer is! She loves the world but never lingers -I hold my hands up to the breeze And feel the day run through my fingers.

BUTTERFLY A

The butterfly just floats through life As careless as a bubble. I walk a stern and moral path-A soul is lots of trouble.

*** MEEKNESS ***

I'm sure I have a brave stern soul That naught in life can override — But when I meet folks on the walk It's always me who turns aside

3 GOAL

I searched the world
for happiness
But sorrows met me
everywhere.
They drove me back
to my own heart
And happiness was
waiting there.

PAST.

I'll live each moment
to the full,
For though they soon
are gone,
Piled up they'll make
me quite a past
To build my
future on.

OPERATION >

I've lost a sympathetic friend.

She underwent an operation—
She lived, but just to talk about Insides in all her conversation.



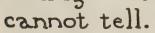
MORALS



I envy movie heroes bold

And large-eyed heroines as well.

They know so clearly right from wrong—
A thing I often





* IMPORTANCE &

I'm always losing rubbers And breaking package strings — Oh, the horrible importance Of unimportant things.

党EXERCISE 者

My road through life is rough at times, With hills that dip and rise. But this all helps my character It needs the exercise.

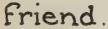
ONE FRIEND

Don't try to flee your loneliness.

You'll only find it in the end.

Just get acquainted with yourself—You'll gain one

understanding



P DECISION TO

Whenever a problem comes up in my life. I decide it and promptly forget it—
It isn't so much the decision that counts. As the will power not to regret it.

THRILL

I went out to a well one night. Soft darkness hid all daytime scars. I held some water to the light And drank a dipper full of stars.

MENDING O

When clouds are dark · just get to work. You'll never help by whining -A stitch in time, I always say, Will mend a silver lining.

SECRETS &



When people tell me secrets I'm often moved to ack Since they themselves can't keep them

Why give to me that task.

Among my many long dead loves Which now look flat and foolish I prowl and poke for things to write -It seems a little ghoulish.

HIGHER THINGS

I sort of flounder through my days, Losing money, missing Cars I keep my mind on higher things And thus I get some awful jars.



CAT



I fuss and chatter through the day.

I sew, I read a silly book.

The cat who lies and thinks for hours

Just gave me one long weary look.





6

BILLS



We have to pay for everything.

Each reckless joy the spirit wills

Goes past — and then along comes life

Relentlessly collecting bills.



YAWNS &

I'm yawning from
morning till night.

It's awful the hours
I keep—
I simply can't live
long enough,
I'm afraid, to catch up
on my sleep.

S & BABIES S

Babies reach for anything That's glittering to see -

And though I'm old I sometimes think c

It's just the same with me.



SYMPATHY S

Sympathy by all is needed.

Freely ought we all to give it — No one knows how

No one knows how hard a life is
But the one who has

to live it.



STAMPS



With all my hardearned cash Most recklessly I part But when I waste a stamp It simply breaks my heart.

本 LAUGH 本

I'm often more clever
and catty than kind
It's such a temptation
to show off my mind,
But if to gain laughter
I hurt a good friend
It's plain that the laugh
is on me



S OUR WORLD



The moon is a queen who walks lovely and mute, The sun is majestic and golden and high, The stars are like notes on a heavenly flute -But our world is the funniest thing in the sky.

DO OBJECTION COM

These books on "How to Win Success Have left my problems all unsolved -They sound inspiring, but I find There's always too much work involved.



LADIES 🐯



How smooth and pleasant ladies are! Their surfaces are never changed Unless they hear a shocking truth And get their features disarranged.

TOLERANCE @

I sternly judge my fellow men When I've been righteous for a while-But when I've not, broad-mindedly give their faults a tolerant smile.



FIRMNESS



Firm I stand through storm and stress. I know that it will end.

I will not break
beneath my woe

But goodness,
how I bend!

TACTLESSNESS &

The moon is kind to lovers,

None friendlier than

But to the lonelyhearted

How tactless she can be!,



S STONE ®

I'd like to buy a diamond ring—
I pay my board instead.

Alas, I ask of life

And all I get is bread!



MY ACTS &

I will not let my
grievous past
With vain remorse
torment me—
I can't help feeling
that my acts
Don't really



SPLASH WID I love goloshes and slickers so, Their names sort of splash together. I flop and slip through the sloppy snow-Oh, how I enjoy bad weather!

TACT

When you've made an awful blunder Don't bewail your brainless act -Think of all your past successes, Show yourself a little tact.

* AFFLICTION 🗢



The members of our human race Who move me most to scornful diction Are sensitive and injured souls Luxuriating in affliction.

A, THOUGHT, &

My work just worried

me today

So that I couldn't do

my best

Until I had this lovely

thought:

The world can stand

it if I rest.



J FEET B

The price of shoes has spoiled my life Which once was calm and sweet -Although I slave the livelong day I cant support my feet!

INTERRUPTIONS

Interruptions steal
my time,
And callers make me
run and hide—
When I am in the
mood to work
I want the world to
stand aside.

a BIRDS A

Birds that perch on fence and tree Glance uncuriously at me, Not caring, as they take my crumb, Where I gon or whence (I come.

CRIME A

Some people speak of killing time. I don't know any greater crime. With work and beauty they might fill it -And yet they sit around and kill it.

SOULS S

Through war and
suffering and woe
To ever distant goals
All bravely forging
on alone
We steer our little
souls.

souls.

88 WINDOWS

The whole world looks a dreary place When through soiled windows it is seen. A lesson this should be

to us
To keep our
mental
windows
clean.

PAPPEARANCES

Misleading are
appearances.
One's true self is
within—
A corpulent outside
may hide
A soul that's starved
and thin.

№ CONFESSION

Although I'm often foolish And my life is full of breaks I make a sort of virtue Of admitting my mistakes.

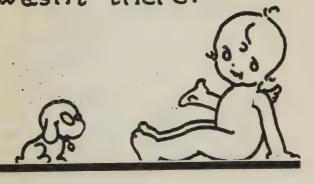
SOLUTION S

I had a problem in my life.

I pondered on it filled with care.

But once I'd gathered all the facts

I saw the problem wasn't there.



BABBLERS

Hundreds of people

paint pictures,

Hundreds write verses

like me

Hundreds of brooklets

that babble

Are lost in the depths

of the sea!

W RULES W

Conventions cramp my sweeping style. Why should I be Rules were only made, I think, For those who are too weak to bust 'em.

191 MUSIC 191

I'd like to go where
music grows—
While violin notes
blew my hair
I'd wander through
the organ groves
And gather little
grace notes
there.

PRESENT &

This moment is the . peak of time. On it we stand and we can see The future and the past stretch out, Two roads to one eternity.

ACCEPTANCE :

We live the most when we accept Most fully what the days reveal, For life is only, in itself, An opportunity to feel.

O.O HOPE OO

My hope springs up in spite of blows, Higher after every fall. Down the road of life it goes Bounding like a rubber " ball.

C MOONLIGHT &

The moon gets all its brightness From the sun's reflected rays.

That's why its light is eerie —

It's made of ghosts of days.



... MOTORING ...

I have a little flivver
That goes up and down
with me,
And how we stay
together so
Is more than I
can see.

9 OPINION 9

What people might think shall not govern my life Whatever I want I will dare.

I'm a slave to opinion though nevertheless—
I want them to know I don't care.



· GAME . .

Well, life may not have much meaning.
Blind chance seems to rule each day -But if you can take it lightly It's a pretty good game to play.

W BUGS S

I love the little

cheerful bugs
That chirp and sing
all summer long.
The summer days are
strung like beads
Upon their fine
unbroken song.



© REPENTANCE &

I like to feel repentant when I haven't done the things I should— It makes me feel more virtuous Than if I'd kept on being good!



How I feel for those goats in the mountains Who leap over canyons ell day! I go leaping from pay day to pay day The same insecurefeeling way.

& AIM b

I do not aim for wealth or fame. I've other hope than that -I long to find before
I die Just one becoming hat.

RAINBOW

A pot of gold you're sure to find If to the rainbow's end you go -The man who has pot of gold Can't always find a rainbow though.

? WEAKNESS ...

Life was given me to

But when it makes me tired or blue I'm letting it use me

instead —

And that's a foolish thing to do.

→B> JOB 😸 🖘

If your job is work to you Quit it, I am here to say -Find the work you're meant to do And it won't ? be work but play.

***TWO LIVES **

Because time goes too fast for me I can't do half the things I ought — I have two lives, the one I act And one I only live in thought.

PETALS & das.

The sun is just a flower gay That blooms above us very high, And every fragrant, soft-aired day A petal falling from the sky. 9

ECONCERT *

My hearts always soothed by sweet music When life seems quite hopeless and bad. It's not that it makes me feel happy -It makes me enjoy feeling sad.

white GOLF whitehim

I'm taking up the game
of golf—

I use my mashie with
such force
I heard a catty person
say
I'm also
taking up
the course.

W OLD AGE W

There is no such thing as old age I believe. In the long race with time I am sure were all winning. The closer we draw to the end of things here The nearer we are to some other beginning.

1 SUCCESS 1

To get ahead is not success.

Progressive men, I often find,

Have hurried so for worldly wealth

That they have left their souls behind.

? QUESTION?

There's a question that's always in my mind; It bothers me and will not cease Is it better to be a grabby child Or always take the smallest piece?

A TUNING-UP

I heard musicians
tuning up,
And thought, "The
discord and the strife
That seem to fill my
days right now
Are just the tuning-up
for life."

SHOARDING SO

If you hoard your wealth of course You'll have it for a rainy day, But if you hoard your love you'll find That it has vanished all away.

器 WALL 是

Selfishness is like a wall,
A useless wall, without a doubt—
It cannot hold my own joy in
But only keeps the world's joy out.

TOMORROW (S)

Cheerily my way I go.
To sorrow I'm inured. I had it once and now I know Tomorrow it is cured.

GAIN

They say that youth's the care-free time But I have learned with age this truth: It's just by growing old we gain. The wisdom to enjoy our youth.

FSURROUNDINGS 5

I wish I had a different house, With slides instead of stairs And springboards on the landings too And cushions everywheres.

& EXCUSES &

I can always make
excuses
When I'm disinclined
to work
But when I am hiring
some one
How I hate to see
him shirk!

& FOOTPRINTS &

I love a field of smooth clean snow Untouched by any human feet. And when I have to walk through one I try to make my footprints . neat.

APOLOGY &

If this cheerfulness
annoys you
On the days you're
feeling blue
Please forgive me,
gentle reader—
Often it annoys me too.



TRAVEL 3

Though travel is confusing With burdens far from light,
By simply looking
helpless
I get along
all right.

桑 MEDES A

I hear of the Medes
and Persians
But never pay much
heed—
I don't believe I
could mention
A single, prominent
Mede!

& LIFE &

Life is very simple. We dress in cloth and leather,
And laugh and cry a little

Among a lot of weather.

A MANNERS &

At parties although I am bitterly bored
I act just as pleased as I can all the while—
And so when the world hands me sorrowful

times
I ought to
remember my
manners,
and smile.

JUSTICE 9

I'd rather be mean
to a person
Than mean to a dog
or a cat,
For people can tell
a policeman
And animals cannot
do that.

· はで、GIFTS でで、

I want all kinds of feelings in my life. We gain from all our joys and sufferings. Contentment gives us health and beauty too, And courage is the gift that sorrow brings.

YEN POOL 道道

I can't roam freely
through the world,
Life seems to shut
me in with bars;
And yet a pool that
lies quite still
Can mirror flying birds
and stars.

b Gossip &

I heard some talk about myself, And most unfair it seemed to be -Oh, well, I live in my own mind And not in others' thoughts of me.

PREFERENCE

I much prefer a person With a black heart underneath To some pure soul who sniffles Or whistles through his teeth.

MOTH " a a

A moth is such a
fairy thing,
So lightly through
the air it floats—
Who'd think that it
subsisted on
Our heavy winter
overcoats!

TALENT v. & S.

I'll never have the fortune Which only genius brings But I have a lot of talent For enjoying little

things.



D LACK D

The human race varies in marvelous ways. We are clever and foolish and deep. In only one thing we're alike it would seem—We never have had enough sleep.

9 QUERY ?

They say a life of struggle grim, Of facing every task, Will get you some place in the end But where, if I may ask?

a DOOR A

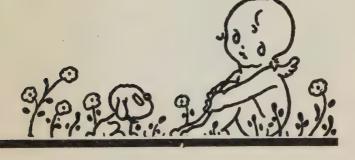
A door is so adaptable, It leads to spaces wide, Or when you want to be alone It shuts the world outside.

学HORIZONS—学

"When I get rich" the children dream With eyes on some far day.

And when they're old, with eyes turned back: "When I was rich"

they say.



STUDY S

We study a trade or profession for years Before we can hope for success—And yet though we want to have lives full of joy We all study living much less.



MILLIONAIRES 3

I never envy millionaires Their wealth and motor cars I'd like to be a poet though For they own all the stars.

OD. SLEEP OF

The night makes

people more united.

While awake they're

far asunder,

But sleep is like a

warm, grey blanket

All of us can huddle

under.

* IMPULSE *

I'd like to hug the human race So much I feel that I adore it But if I tried this on the street I spose I'd get arrested for it.

I SHADOWS I

Shadows in the noonday sun are sharp; At sunset they are long and soft and still. So troubles that are black and hard in youth Grow soft with age at least I think they will.

- Sign

一 FENCES 一 一

When I consider Time and Space It fills me with a quiet mirth To see a human fencing off A tiny portion of the earth.

· TREE

I think I'd like to be a tree, And stand and sway without a care; And have the fragrant rain-washed wind Run long, strong fingers through my hair.

SHAPES A

While animals live
care-free lives
And birds soar high on
joyous wings
The human race with
wood and nails
Just fills the world
with shapes
of things.

ON DARING DO

I like a life of daring,
To make mistakes and then
Look forward, never caring,
And take new risks again.

S POETS

The poets talk like supermen In strange, uplifting verse. But when you meet them you can see They're just the same as you and me, Or sometimes even worse.

CURE 🛱

I know a way to

cure the blues

As sure as anything:

Turn on the bath tub

water hard

And then get in and

sing.



-G ADS 3-.

Among the ads in magazines
There lives a quaint and happy race,
Their problems solved by soap or soup,
A smile on every simple face.

POSSESSIONS P

Possessions weigh me down in life.

I never feel quite free.
I wonder if I own my things
Or if my things
own me.

ADVICE :

At times you ought
to stay alone
I make so bold as to
advise
And just be friendly
with your soul—

Your soul will miss



B TIME **B**

Time is such a
mystery,
So gentle and so
healing—
The days slip past
like colored cards
That Father Time
is dealing.

TO DRIFTING &

I do not strive to guide my life With firm and brainrestricted hand -So often, drifting here and there, I touch the shores of fairyland.

DUMBNESS &

Dumb animals we call them
While they bark and neigh and moo.
They talk as much as we do—
To them we seem dumb too.

F PANGS

Oh, how I regret in
the night
With pangs that will
never abate
Those brilliantly
crushing retorts
I think of a little
too late!

OUR LIVES O

Our lives all interweave, Each needed in its place. And every heavy heart Is weighing down the race.

T PROGRESS T

In my youth I set my goal Farther than the eye could see. I am nearer to it DOW I have moved it nearer me.

FIN LIGHT FIN

Stained glass windows make the light'
Like songs of beauty
from the sun. Life could shine through us like that, You and me and everyone.

DRAMATIC INSTINCT

live dramatized my
life too much
I'm so poetically
gifted.

At concerts I don't
listen now—
I sit and try to look
uplifted.

OUTLOOK >

We can't look far ahead or back. By time we're overawed -Well, since my view of life's not long I'll try to keep it broad.

LEISURE A

To live with leisure every day And never fret or WOTTY Will make each hour twice as long. No one has time to hurry. on

@ ADJUSTMENT &

To get adjusted to the world Is after all the wisest aim. It won't adjust itself to us For it was here before we came.

.O°OPTIMISTS ...

Although I side with optimists And think they have the right of it, I'm not just glad because of life. But often-times in spite of it.

SMALL THINGS T

I love small uncivilized things,
Babies and rabbits and birds,
Who carry around in their eyes
Little strange thoughts without words.

· TRUTH 浏

Truth is the holy grail I seek, Beyond all small ambitions. The only truth I've found is this -Truth changes with conditions.

& WORK &

I'm glad I have to work to live -I'd hate to reach my final day And have a guilty Feeling then That I had , 7 never paid

PLAN . PLAN

We're all a part of one big plan
To work together,
not compete—
Thus one who beats
his fellow man
Has really caused his
own defeat.

STE YEARNING CO.

When people yearn with all their hearts For just one treasure far away They close their eyes to countless joys That crowd around them every day. BW. CHHU

별 YOUTH 얼

Youth brings the
greatest gladness,
Or so I'm often
told—
And I can always
keep it
Unless my heart
grows old.



& EXCEPTIONS &

I try to be friends with the whole human race And feel they're my brothers whatever they do, Except those at concerts who sit next to me And put on their rubbers before it's all through.

TEAR A

Do the thing you're most afraid of; Never let it know you fear it. Dangers only hurt the body But it's fear that kills the spirit.

WHISTLES

The noonday whistles' piercing shrieks To me are music wild and sweet With gladsome cries that reach the skies They tell the world it's time to eat.

BEES &

I love it in the country But one thing worries me The bees work all day Sunday Which really shouldn't be. C# 866

~ VANITY &

The things in life I really want Are all quite moderate and wise The foolish things I think I want Are just to dazzle others' eyes.

B MAN B

Although I pity ancient man, (We're luckier than he), I hate to think posterity Will some day pity me!

IN RESOLVE IN

I let the blues creep in today -I'll take possession of tomorrow And cram it full of work and play And not leave any room for sorrow.

N VIEWPOINT



No other two people
can ever have
Such different points
of view
As the man who sublets a furnished flat

And the tenant he rents it to.



ADVENTURERS

Progress comes from adventurers, Explorers of land and thought.

The absolute conservative Gives civilization naught.

PRACTISE OF

My days are full of blunders -Oh, how I've always yearned To live one life for practise, Another when I've learned!

DETAILS -

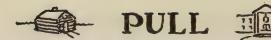
I don't see life in
the abstract
As something sweeping
and grand—
I bury my head in
its details
As an ostrich
does in
the sand.

EQUALITY %

Of course we're free and equal here In spite of fame or pelf.

Some seem more free than others though—







If I should get ahead
through pull
Instead of earning
my advance
I'd lose as much in
character
As I'd be gaining
in finance.

唐 SIMPLE LIFE 春

I'd like to live a simple life And concentrate on some high aim Ignoring worldly pomp and show, If all my friends would do the same.

PRAYER &

May I walk my ways Clear-eyed and free And do some good Anonymously.



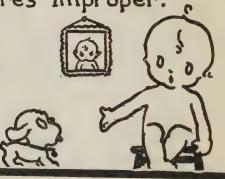
REVOLVING DOORS

Revolving doors are spiteful things
I cannot help but feel. Unless I leap out breathlessly They nip me on the heel.

CRUDITY &

My crude baby sister
makes terrible breaks,
And nothing we do seems
to stop her.
She won't be unnatural,

scold as we may —
And we all know that
Nature's improper.



A DIGNITY A

I'd like to skip along the street But I must walk with stately stride. Who started all this foolishness Of people acting dignified?

以 WIT 验

I think of witty
things to say.

I'd be considered
bright—

Except I always
think them in
The middle of the
night!

I JOY

Life itself can't give me joy Unless I really will it.

Life just gives me time and space-

It's up to me to fill it.

LONELINESS >

Am I the only one in life Who always seems to stand apart Or is it everyone who feels A little lonesome in his heart? Dr

& LIVING &

Though usually I
spend my time
By my own life
engrossed
It's when I'm helping
others live
I feel I'm living
most.

ACCOMPANIMENT

Truth makes life a noble thing,
And courage makes it strong,
But grace and tact must set them off As music does



CO KNIGHTS &

No more do gallant knights ride out On chargers bold with banners gay But many just as noble knights Charge forth on street cars every day.

WISDOM A

The wise old writers
left advice
On how we might
avoid life's stings.
To heed their words
might cure our woes—
Except they all said
different
things.

DOUBLE MEANING

Though words may seem to be direct Their meaning often is twofold -When people say, "How young you look!" Irealize I'm getting old.

& MONKEYS &

I stood before the monkeys' cage, Their funny ways to see -I laughed at them a lot until I saw one (laugh at me.

MISTAKES &

I'd rather make
mistakes at times,
(For even in mistakes
I live)
Than be afraid to
take a risk
And make my whole
life negative.

REALITY &

I look into a mirror

And doubt reality—

A shadow of a

shadow

My face looks back



佩 WORDS m 想

Words have colors
and music
And wisdom and joy
as well—
How lovely I think
that words are
There are no words
to tell!

STATUE

I love a statue old and still.

Ancient moods pervade it.

It's strange how much more real it is

Than the hand that made it.

.C. SKY . C.

I love the tender brooding sky, It rests my eyes and spirit too I wish that I could climb up high And plunge my arms deep in its blue.

& DEMOCRACY &

I feel my kinship with the low. They're good as I am any day -It irritates me quite a lot To find that they too feel this way.

MONOTONY &

I claim imagination, But that's an idle boast

When every day
for breakfast
I eat an egg and



D STYLE D

I've lost some great and stylish friends. I'm glad as I can be. The strain of living up to them Was nearly killing me.



I find that woe is never quite As final as I feared. Thus as I flounder through my life.
I feel a little cheered.

& SWEEPING &

I like to sweep the front porch steps; The sun shines and the birds all sing. I hate to sweep the kitchen floor I never see or hear a thing.

CONDUCT &

A rule for good
conduct
Which hasn't failed
yet
Is just to do
nothing
You'd like to forget.



So VIRTUE Sad

I've worked to build my character. I wish I'd not commenced it, For virtue is its own reward-That's what Ihave against it.

3 STATESMEN 3

Statesmen stand in long black coats And speak wise words from ample throats. I always think with wonder then Of how small babes become such men!

SF AGE

Although old age is creeping on To all its troubles I'm resigned.
My joints may stiffen but I'll not Have rheumatism in my mind.



A FLEA &

My dog presented me today

With just one little flea.

He missed it not at all, but, oh —

The difference to me!



BURGLARS

A burglar stole my jewelry But that was really kind -No longer now my jewelry Can steal my peace of mind.

STORMS

I'd like to take my grief the way A tree bends to the storms that beat it, To see it as a part of life And, by accepting it,

deseat it.

C) PALMISTRY (5)

A palmist read my hand today. It filled me with surprise -In spite of what I've always thought It seems I'm strong and wise!

"NAVIGATION &

The sailor has no harder job Who sails the stormy oceans Than I who steer my little soul Through strange and deep emotions.

CAMELS W

I never think of camels much, But always see them, when I do, In endless caravans although I spose they have their home life too.

WEATHER D

I love grey days of wind and rain When all the big trees shout and play, And misty days all filled with dreams I just love 1 1 weather anyway.

CHARGE ACCOUNT

I love to have a charge account. It makes for painless buying -Except that when the bills come in My family's trying.

oUNDERSTANDING°

Sometimes our friends
may seem quite false
But we should still try
not to lose them—
If we could see within
their minds
It might be easy to
excuse them.

SOB PAY O

I'm sorry that the world's arranged So we must do our work for pay—I always feel I gain the most When I can give my work away.

off LOSS To

Bare trees against the winter sky Make patterns delicate as lace.

Thus loss can give the strong of soul A special kind of charm and grace.

S SMUGNESS /

I feel so smug when
I've been good
I soon become
unbearable—
I'm really pleasanter
to know
When I have just been
terrible!

& POLITENESS &

Now animals aren't polite, Each tries to outdo his own brother, But we tip our hats when we meet And open the door for each other.

TO SHOW & TO

If you think that the world is all wrong,
That civilization's a botch,
At least you will have to admit
It's a pretty good show to watch.

"SO. . FOG . . B'&

The fog comes creeping quietly. A sense of mystery it brings, And by half-hiding it reveals More beauty in familiar things.

☎ DISCRETION ☎

I'm honest as the day is long, But only through discretion: I cannot tell a lie Ilack Control of my expression.

* EXPLOSION

"When everything goes dead wrong" And fate presses down on my load, Am I noble and brave? No, I break things and rave-It's such a relief to explode.

CHASE 'X

I long for a life of more leisure.

I rush through the day, till it feels

As if I am chasing



In MYSTERY, 1

Often across long miles of space Strange voices speak strange words to me. It brings such mystery to life When central makes mistakes, you see.

O NEGLECT

Whenever I have cause to feel That life's neglecting me a bit I find the only reason is That I'm not giving much to it.

FORMALITY ST

Im friends with trees and animals As if I always knew them -Just humans seem to think I need An introduction to them.



The fabric of my life is grey—
Hard work in one small place.

I'll concentrate on trimming it
With lots of laughs for lace.

BATHING SUITS 🖨

When pompous people squelch me With their regal attributes It cheers me to imagine How they'd look in bathing suits.

RESTING A

Be lazy sometimes, I advise.

Don't blame yourself and think you shirk. It's very wise to realize

That resting is a part of work.



O LOVE 1

A man can own uncounted gold And land and buildings tall, But love is just to give away-It can't be owned at all.

※ GLADNESS ※

When I'm sad all my sadness is centered in me. The world just as happily passes me by. But when I am glad all my gladness goes out And feels just as big as the earth and the sky.

ag AUTUMN Do.

Youth and loves as light as spray Like fragrant petals drift away. Stark at last, and somehow freed, Stands the stalk that bears the seed.

PRIDE W

I threw my coat around me To take a haughty leave. But my hand went through the lining Instead of down the sleeve!

TROUBLE &

Courage can lessen
misfortune
To quite a surprising
degree—
The trouble is never
with trouble

So much as it is with me.



O FAME O

Each tries to get his share of fame In spite of modest disavowals -Some carve their names in history, And some embroider them on towels.

OH, WELL

I can accept the fate of each tomorrow. A rootless gladness blooms above my sorrow. Across my life, a field that bears no seed, Go bobbing little joys like tumble-weed.

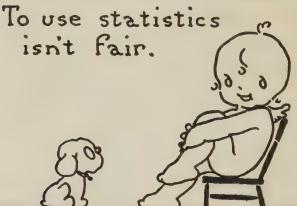
ARGUMENT S



I love a good hot argument.

I'll talk for hours anywhere -But just one rule

must be observed:



EGO NE

In all my thoughts how big I seem! I stand conspicuous in space, While, like a chorus on the stage, Behind me stands the human race.

曲 SHOPPING 鱼



It takes all the joy from a wild shopping spree And the next day it drives me distraught To find that the shops took me seriously



台 CROWD 網線

When I'm alone I'm just honestly me, Not foolish or humble or proud. But when I'm with others I'm acting a part -Ialways get lost in a crowd.

SE ANYWAY SE

I've had some awful illnesses
And accidents that stretched me flat,

But anyway I'm still alive —

And lots of people can't say that:



I did the thing I feared the most. Excuse me while I cheer. Now here I stand, a stronger soul-And all I've lost is fear.

SOUL RES

Who'd think to see my plodding feet And plain though useful face I have a gay and dancing soul.

That flits from place to place?

ECHECK BOOK D

I cannot keep my
check book straight—
I find, to be quite
frank,
I'm much too lavish
with myself
And stingy with
the bank.

A HOUSES A

We all live in houses of thought Life builds in our minds so it seems The walls and the floors are just facts, But the windows and doors are our dreams.

? WHY ?

Whene'er I'm in revolving doors
Behind a fat and pompous man Why am I moved to spin around As fast and furious as I can?



It's strange when in a storm at sea.
At which my courage

fails

To think this ocean even now

Is home, sweet home, to whales.

SWALLOWS A

I love to watch the swallows soar. With lilting rhythmic grace they fly, As if a flock of small black notes Were writing music on the sky.

!INCONSISTENCY!

I'm sure I have a noble mind And honesty and tact, And no one's more surprised than I To see the way, I act!

& MY TIME @

My possessions belong to my friends But I must have it known, Though freely Id part with my wealth, That my time is my own.

MEMORY W

My memory's like a spider's web That holds bright joys like drops of dew, With here and there an awful rent Where whole long weeks have fallen through.

紫 COURAGE ※

If you have tried and tried again
Nor made your effort less

You really have succeeded then -

For courage is success.

© ECONOMY ©

I can't afford economy -I save a dollar now and then Which makes me feel so. virtuous I'm always moved to squander ten.

SHELTER S



With little strict conventions And formal words and acts We build ourselves a shelter From life's most sweeping facts.

Es PROCESSION PO

Down the years in grand procession Poets march with deathless song, While with countless little verses Stubbornly I tag along.

. PESSIMISTS. O

The pessimists spread gloom about They always hord such dreary views They should be quarantined I think So other Folks won't catch their blues.









